

Claims 29-50 are presently pending in this application, Claims 13-28 having been canceled and Claims 29-50 having been newly added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informality; Claims 13-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; Claims 13-16 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 582,780 (hereinafter EP '780). However, Claims 17-20 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 17-20 include allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, submitted herein are new Claims 29-50. Claims 29-32 substantially correspond to Claims 17-20 in independent form, respectively, and method Claims 46-49 include the subject matters substantially similar to what is recited in Claims 29-32, respectively. Consequently, Claims 13-28 have been canceled.

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 13-28 have been canceled, and new Claims 29-50 have been submitted herein. Claims 30, 31 and 32 include the phrase "plurality of coverpieces comprising at least one cornerpiece." According to Applicant's specification, a "cornerpiece" is a "coverpiece which covers a corner," and the coverpieces comprise cornerpieces as well as, in some cases some coverpieces which do not cover corners but just cover a side. Thus, the word "coverpieces" is used instead of the word "cornerpieces." Also, Claim 50 includes the phrase "over at least part of their length and their heigh." As shown in Figure 4a and 4b and described in Applicant's specification, page 9, the first paragraph, two coverpieces may be fitted one another over a part of their length and heigh. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these

phrases in Claims 30-32 and 50 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matters which Applicant regards as the invention. Hence, new Claims 29-50 are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of the statute.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 29-32 and 46-49 are believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 33-45 and 50 directly depend from Claims 29-32 or 46-49, Claims 33-45 and 50 are believed to be allowable as well.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, it is respectfully submitted that the plurality of coverpieces 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a are presented together with the cornerpieces 5, 4, 6, 7 in the drawings. Thus, the current drawings are believed to show every features of the invention.

If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any amendment or discussion presented above, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory solution.

In light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter and in view of the amendment and discussions presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099  
Attorneys of Record



**22850**

James D. Hamilton  
Registration No. 28,421

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

GJM/RTP/AY:si

I:\atty\Aky\19s\194112\194112US.ame2modified.wpd

**Marked-Up Copy**

Serial No: 09/600,860

Amendment Filed on:

October 5, 2001

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 13-28 without prejudice, and add new Claims 29-50 as follows:

--13. - 28. (Canceled)

29. - 50. (New) --